

[22 March, 2001]

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for making a consolidated arrangement to make available the said information technology to the students of weaker section living in small cities and towns;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there is a possibility of shortage of trainers for information technology; and

(d) if so, the part of said fund which would be utilized for bringing up the trainers?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) The Task Force on Human Resource Development (HRD) in IT in its interim report has recommended an investment of Rs. 2000 crores over a period of seven years (upto 10th Five Year Plan) to ensure supply of adequate and quality manpower in IT sector.

No separate amount is earmarked for students from weaker sections, but the initiatives will benefit all students including weaker section.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Faculty development fund (national level) is proposed with a possible support of Rs. 140.00 crores.

Action against defaulter Institutes

†2940. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what action has been taken by Government against the institutes that have failed to make timely deposit of Provident Fund contribution;

(b) whether it is a fact that 21,698 such institutes have been declared as defaulters till 31st March, 2000 which are owing more than one thousand fifty eight crore of rupees; and

(c) if so, the number of institutes that have repaid the dues as well as the remaining defaulters?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) Necessary legal and penal action as provided under section 7A, 8, 8B, 14, 14B of the EPF and MP Act, 1952 and where necessary, also under section 406/409 of the IPC is already being taken to recover the EPF dues outstanding against the defaulting establishments.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Out of the total EPF dues an amount of Rs.767.76 crore is not immediately recoverable due to liquidation, closure and other court proceedings. From the remaining recoverable amount of Rs.290.55 crore an amount of Rs. 188.99 crore has since been recovered from the defaulting establishments. The list of EPF defaulters is finalised/updated on an annual basis.

New Policy for Interests of workers

†2941. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any new policy in the process of economic reforms by keeping in view the workers interests; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) Review/updating of labour policy is a continuous process in order to make it in tune with the prevailing situation and emerging needs. The Labour Policy is, to a large extent, governed by various labour laws. The Government has been amending these laws from time to time to make them more meaningful and effective. The Second National Commission on Labour has been set up *vide* resolution issued on 15.10.1999 to suggest rationalisation of existing laws relating to labour in the

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